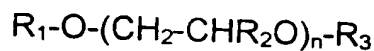


Claims

1. A liquid disinfecting composition comprising an effective amount of a disinfecting material and a poly(alkylene glycol) alkyl ether having the following formula:



wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are each independently hydrogen or a substituted or unsubstituted, saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched hydrocarbon chain having from 1 to 30 carbon atoms or a hydroxy bearing linear or branched hydrocarbon chain having from 1 to 30 carbon atoms,  $R_3$  is a substituted or unsubstituted, saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched hydrocarbon chain having from 1 to 30 carbon atoms or a hydroxy bearing linear or branched hydrocarbon chain having from 1 to 30 carbon atoms, and  $n$  is greater than 2, or a mixture thereof.

2. A composition according to claim 1 wherein in the poly(alkylene glycol) alkyl ether
- $R_1$  and  $R_2$  each independently are hydrogen, or a substituted or unsubstituted, linear or branched, alkyl group or alkenyl group having from 1 to 30 carbon atoms, preferably from 1 to 16 carbon atoms, more preferably from 1 to 8 and most preferably from 1 to 4, or a hydroxy bearing linear or branched alkyl group or alkenyl group having from 1 to 30 carbon atoms, more preferably from 1 to 16, even more preferably from 1 to 4, and most preferably  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  are each independently methyl or hydrogen,
  - $R_3$  is a substituted or unsubstituted, linear or branched, alkyl group or alkenyl group having from 1 to 30 carbon atoms, preferably from 1 to 16 carbon atoms, more preferably from 1 to 8 and most preferably from 1 to 4, or a substituted or unsubstituted, saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched aryl group having up to 30 carbon atoms, preferably from 3 to 16 and more preferably from 4 to 8 carbon atoms, or a hydroxy bearing linear or branched alkyl group or alkenyl group having from 1 to 30 carbon

atoms, more preferably from 1 to 16 even more preferably from 1 to 8, and most preferably  $R_3$  is butyl.

- n is at least 3, preferably from 3 to 2 300, more preferably 3 to 100, even more preferably from 3 to 20, and most preferably from 3 to 10.

3. A composition according to <sup>claim 1</sup> ~~any of the preceding claims~~ wherein the poly(alkylene glycol) alkyl ether or a mixture thereof is present at a level of from 0.001% to 10% by weight of the total composition, preferably from 0.005% to 2%, more preferably from 0.01% to 1%, even more preferably from 0.05% to 0.5% and most preferably from 0.08% to 0.4%.

4. A composition according to <sup>claim 1</sup> ~~any of the preceding claims~~ wherein said disinfecting material is a peroxygen bleach, an antimicrobial essential oil or an active thereof, a quaternary ammonium compound, paraben, an aldehyde, a phenolic compound, an alcohol, an organic acid and/or a chlorine-type bleach.

5. A composition according to <sup>claim 1</sup> ~~any of the preceding claims~~ wherein said disinfecting material is a peroxygen bleach preferably hydrogen peroxide or a water soluble source thereof selected from the group consisting of percarbonates, persulfates, persulphates, perborates, peroxyacids, dialkylperoxides, diacylperoxides, preformed percarboxylic acids, organic and inorganic peroxides, organic and inorganic hydroperoxides and mixtures thereof, and more preferably is hydrogen peroxide.

6. A composition according to <sup>claim 4</sup> ~~claims 4 or 5~~ wherein said composition comprises up to 20% by weight of the total composition of said peroxygen bleach, or mixtures thereof, preferably from 0.1% to 15% and more preferably from 0.5% to 10%.

7. A composition according to <sup>claim 1</sup> ~~any of the preceding claims~~ wherein said disinfecting material is an antimicrobial essential oil preferably selected from the group consisting of thyme oil, lemongrass oil, citrus oil, lemon oil, orange oil, ajowan oil, anise oil, clove oil, aniseed oil, cinnamon oil, geranium oil, rose oil, lavender oil, citronella oil, eucalyptus oil, peppermint

oil, mint oil, camphor oil, sandalwood oil, cedar oil, rosmarin oil, pine oil, vervain oil, fleagrass oil, lemongrass oil, ratanhia oil and mixtures thereof, or an active of essential oil preferably selected from the group consisting of thymol, eugenol, menthol, carvacrol, verbenone, eucalyptol, cedrol, anethol, pinocarvone, geraniol, hinokitiol, berberine, ferulic acid, cinnamic acid, methyl salicylic acid, methyl salicylate, terpineol, limonene and mixtures thereof, or a mixture thereof and more preferably is thyme oil, ajowan oil, citronella oil, clove oil, cinnamon oil, geranium oil, eucalyptus oil, peppermint oil, mint oil, thymol, eugenol, verbenone, eucalyptol, terpineol, cinnamic acid, methyl salicylic acid, limonene, geraniol or a mixture thereof.

- claim 4*
- a 8. A composition according to ~~claim 4 to 7~~ wherein said antimicrobial essential oil, or an active thereof or a mixture thereof is present in said composition at a level up to 20% by weight of the total composition, preferably from 0.003% to 10%, more preferably from 0.01% to 8% and most preferably from 0.03% to 3%.
- claim 1*
- a 9. A composition according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ wherein said composition further comprises a surfactant up to a level of 50% by weight of the total composition, typically selected from the group consisting of anionic surfactants, nonionic surfactants, cationic surfactants, amphoteric surfactants, zwitterionic surfactants and mixtures thereof.
10. A composition according to claim 9 wherein said surfactant is an amphoteric surfactant, preferably an amine oxide and/or a zwitterionic surfactant, preferably a betaine or sulfobetaine surfactant, and/or an anionic surfactant, preferably a C8-C16 alkyl sulfonate, C7-C16 alkyl sulfate and/or C7-C16 alkyl alkoxylated sulfate.
- claim 1*
- a 11. A composition according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ which further comprises at least an ingredient selected from the group consisting of chelants, solvents, pH buffers, builders, stabilisers, bleach activators, soil suspenders, dye transfer agents, brighteners, perfumes, anti dusting agents, enzymes, dispersant, dye transfer inhibitors, pigments, perfumes, radical scavengers, dyes, and mixtures thereof.

- a 12. A composition according to <sup>claim 1</sup> ~~any of the preceding claims~~ which is an aqueous composition having a pH of not more than 12, more preferably from 1 to 10 and most preferably from 2 to 9.
- a 13. A composition according to <sup>claim 1</sup> ~~any of the preceding claims~~ which is packaged in a spray dispenser.
- a 14. A wipe incorporating a composition according to <sup>claim 1</sup> ~~any of the claims 1 to 12~~.
- a 15. A process of disinfecting a ~~hard-surface~~ <sup>claim 1</sup> with a composition according to ~~any of the preceding claims 1 to 12~~, said process comprising the step of applying said composition in its liquid form neat or diluted typically at a dilution level up to 100 times its weight of water, preferably into 80 to 2 times, and more preferably 60 to 10 times, before optionally rinsing said hard-surface.

add B57

add B17